



LIFE ISSUES

book 3

is Jesus Christ the only way to God?



LIFE ISSUES

book 3

is Jesus Christ the only way to God?

Life Issues: Book 3

Copyright © 1994, © 2007, © 2011. Randy Pope. All Rights Reserved.

Life-on-Life Resources
A division of Life-on-Life Ministries
9500 Medlock Bridge Road
Johns Creek, Ga 30097
lifeonlife.org

Life Issues: Book 1–4 set
ISBN 13-digit: 978-0-9776605-3-7

Life Issues: Books 1–4 set
ISBN 13-digit: 978-0-9776605-5-1

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publisher, except as provided by USA copyright law.

Scripture taken from English Standard Version, Copyright © 2001, Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Cover Design and Page Layout: Zoe Huff

Cover Photo: Istockphoto

Printed in the United States of America

is Jesus Christ the only way to God?

Many people are offended when they hear Christians claim, “Jesus is the only way to God.” They ask, “Why are you the only ones who are right?” “Why is your way the only right way?”

These same people are often surprised to realize their problem does not lie with Christians, but rather with Christ Himself. Jesus was the first to make the claim that He is the only way to God. “I am the Way—yes, and the Truth and the Life. No one can get to the Father except by means of me,” Jesus said (John 14:6 TLB). “That is why I said that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am the Messiah, the Son of God, you will die in your sins.” (John 8:24 TLB).

For many, simply making such a claim is reason for offense. However, in itself, this claim to uniqueness should not offend anyone. By way of analogy consider the simple math problem, $2 + 2 = ?$ In this equation there are many options from which to choose, but only one is right. Thus, the real issue is not whether such an assertion is permissible, but rather if it is true. Given this focus, then, why do Christians claim Jesus Christ is the only way to God?

Our Fundamental Problem

The single most important reason to believe Jesus is the only way to God is that only His life, death and resurrection deal with the fundamental problem of a person’s sin. If there is a heaven, the immediate question is how can we get there? The solution that most religions offer is to “earn your

LIFE ISSUES book 3

way there”-to be good enough that God will let you in. The problem with this approach is that it totally ignores the reason that a person is separated from God in the first place. We have all willfully chosen to disobey God, quite literally an act of cosmic treason. This rebellion is what the Bible calls sin.

The heart of the issue, then, is what do we do with our sin? It doesn’t take being around too many people to realize that we’re all stuck with bitterness, selfishness, anger, greed, deceit, lust, or hatred. The fact that we’ve never met anyone free of sin is proof that no one has totally overcome it. Being good enough to get to heaven is not a workable option. The only hope left for us, then, is forgiveness. With this in mind the necessity and uniqueness of the cross becomes apparent. God cannot forgive sin simply by ignoring it. In Hebrews 9:22 (TLB) we learn that “without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.” Sin must be paid for and only Jesus, of all the religious leaders, has paid the penalty for us. “Christ also suffered. He died once for the sins of all us guilty sinners although he himself was innocent of any sin at any time, that he might bring us safely home to God. But though his body died, his spirit lived on” (1 Peter 3:18 TLB).

If Christ is not the only way and if we are able to reach God by some other means, then His death on the cross was unnecessary. In fact, He would have been foolish to have willfully submitted to His own crucifixion. Why suffer needlessly when other options are available?

The root of this issue lies in our demand-

ing mercy from God as if this is something He is obligated to do. It is our demand to be let off the hook that leads to the question, “Why is Jesus the only way?” Considering our rebellion against God the better question is, “Why is there any way at all?”

Jesus Fulfilled Old Testament Prophecies

During Old Testament times God instructed His people to expect a Savior. He would be the promised Messiah who would deliver people from their sins and provide a way to eternal life. To encourage their anticipation of the Messiah and to assure that they would not put their hope in the wrong person, God gave them clues as to how to recognize the Savior. These clues were the approximate 300 prophecies in the Old Testament foretelling the life, death and resurrection of the coming Messiah. Written hundreds of years before the birth of Christ, they indicate where He would be born, what family He would be born into, the things He would do in His life, how He would die and that He would rise again. Some of these prophecies were detailed in Book One.

A Life of Working Miracles

When John the Baptist was questioning whether Jesus Christ was God’s appointed Messiah, Jesus made an interesting reply, “Jesus told them ‘Go back to John and tell him about the miracles

you've seen me do—the blind people I've healed, and the lame people now walking without help, and the cured lepers, and the deaf who hear, and the dead raised to life; and tell him about my preaching the Good News to the poor'." (Matthew 11:4-5 TLB). Why did Jesus say this? Was he evading John's question?

Anyone can say, "Yes," to the direct question, "Are you the Messiah?" Jesus wanted to do more than this so He offered proof by pointing to His miracles. These attested to His being the Messiah in two ways. First, the miracles demonstrated that Jesus had supernatural powers—that He literally had control over creation. Jesus Christ is unique in His ability to heal the sick and raise the dead. Secondly, Jesus was quoting an Old Testament prophecy written hundreds of years earlier that foretold how God would save His people (Isaiah 35:5). When John the Baptist heard Jesus apply this "job description" to Himself, he knew that Jesus was God's unique Savior.

The Ultimate Proof of His Deity

Perhaps the most compelling reason to believe Jesus Christ is the only way to God is His unique resurrection. Often before His death Jesus predicted He would be killed by the religious leaders of the day and would rise again three days later. Much to the amazement of the disciples, He did exactly that. After His crucifixion, He was placed into a tomb cut into a rock that was sealed by a large boulder. Three days later He presented

is Jesus Christ the only way to God?

Himself to His disciples and gave many convincing proofs that He was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days (Acts 1:3).

Not only does Jesus' resurrection demonstrate His power over sin and death, it also authenticates everything else He has to say. To illustrate: Suppose a friend of yours told you that he would soon be shot and killed, but that a few days later he would visit you again, very much alive, and you would talk, eat and laugh together. Certainly, you would dismiss this as impossible, but then you watch as a man shoots your friend. A coroner pronounces him dead and you bury him in a cemetery. However, three days later he actually does visit you. His body is real and healthy and you talk, eat and laugh as was promised. Imagine your amazement and joy to see your friend alive! From this moment on, though, you would never doubt anything else he said, for if he was right about this "impossible" event, then everything else he says would surely be true as well.

A Legacy of Changed Lives

While Christianity is founded upon objective, historical events and deep philosophical truths, it would certainly not be unique if it was not relevant to our lives. Christianity must be significant to the human experience. Indeed this is so. Millions through the centuries have testified of the transforming power of the living Jesus Christ in their lives. In every age and in every culture Jesus Christ

has given people love, joy and meaning they had not experienced before.

So pervasive is Christ's influence that Kenneth Scott Latourette, a historian at Yale University, states:

"Through Him movements have been set in motion which have made in society for what mankind believes to be its best-in the inward transformation in human lives, in political order, in the production and distribution of goods to meet the physical needs of men, in healing physical ills, in the relations between races and between nations, in art, in religion and in the achievements of the human intellect. Gauged by the consequences which have followed, the birth, life and resurrection of Jesus have been the most important events in the history of man. Measured by His influence, Jesus is central in the human story."

The Second of Three Required Statements

Remember our question posed by God outside the gates of heaven? "Why should I let you in?" The first statement was: We must be able to tell God that we are a sinner deserving eternal punishment. We now must add a second statement which must be embraced in order to qualify to enter heaven's gates: We must be able to tell God that we believe Jesus Christ paid our penalty by His death on the cross.

Christ Is the Perfect Substitute

We have already discussed the fact that God's justice requires our moral debt to be paid. The good news is that God has provided a plan which enables Him to remain just and still enables sinful people to avoid punishment. He does this by allowing a sinless person to be punished in substitute of a sinful person. That sinless person was God Himself in the person of Jesus Christ. Christ who was perfect (God) and yet man, became the substitute qualified to pay our penalty. Because of this Paul could say "Because of his kindness, you have been saved through trusting Christ. And even trusting is not of yourselves; it too is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good we have done, so none of us can take any credit for it." (Ephesians 2:8-9 TLB).

Consider the Following Illustration

Let's imagine you are a teenager and your father is a judge. One day as he is holding court he notices that just as the next case is about to begin, a police officer escorts you into the courtroom. Your father looks down in surprise, then turns to the officer and asks, "With what offense has my son been charged?" The officer doesn't realize until now that you are the judge's son, and he says, "Your Honor, I didn't realize this was your son, but we caught him going 60 miles per hour in a 30 mile per hour zone." Your father asks you if you are guilty, and you've got to admit you are. So your father says,

"Son, the penalty for this offense is \$200.00 or a week in jail. Do you have the money?" You say, "Dad, you know I don't have the money." So your father has a decision to make. On one hand he could be merciful and say, "Son, you know how much I love you; now go on home and don't ever do that again. And by the way, officer and clerk, this is not to be recorded; it's to be kept secret." Even if this were considered to be loving, it certainly would not be just, would it?

On the other hand, your father could turn to you and say, "Son, you deserve this, and it's good you got caught. Now go on to jail, I hope you've learned a lesson." If he did that, the father would be completely just, but not very loving.

Yet, there's one way your father could be both just and merciful. What if he stepped down from his bench, took off his robe, and handed you \$200.00. Now he's being both just and merciful, isn't he? Justice is served because the penalty is paid, but he also demonstrates his gracious love for you by paying your penalty. In essence that is just what God did for us. Being perfectly just, He couldn't let us off the hook when we broke His law. However, being a merciful God, He stepped down from heaven in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ, and made the payment for us by shedding His blood.

The Clincher

So that we would never have to doubt the validity of Christ's claims, God proved that His

is Jesus Christ the only way to God?

death paid for our sin by His bodily resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

The conclusion we draw from all this is that heaven is a free gift which cannot be earned or deserved by human beings. Therefore, the answer to our original question of how we would answer God if He were to ask why He should let us into heaven is, “because of Christ’s substitutionary death on my behalf.”

Can you sincerely tell God that you believe Christ paid your penalty for you by His death on the cross?

Continue reading the Gospel of John. Note any questions which arise as you read.

gospel of John

chapters 11-15

11 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent to him, saying, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” ⁴But when Jesus heard it he said, “This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” ⁵Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” ⁸The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?” ⁹Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. ¹⁰But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.”

¹¹After saying these things, he said to them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him.” ¹²The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover.”

¹³Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep.

¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus has died, ¹⁵and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” ¹⁶So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

¹⁷Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.

¹⁸Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off,

is Jesus Christ the only way to God?

¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother.

²⁰So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house.

²¹Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.” ²³Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”

²⁸When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” ²⁹And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him.

³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. ³¹When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³²Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. ³⁴And he said, “Where have you

1. What did Jesus mean when he said, “I am the resurrection”?
(11:25)

2. What does Christ’s being the resurrection mean for those who believe?
(11:26)

LIFE ISSUES book 3

laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵Jesus wept. ³⁶So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." ⁴⁴The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, ⁴⁶but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done.

⁴⁷So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the Council and said, "What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. ⁴⁸If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation." ⁴⁹But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all. ⁵⁰Nor do you understand that

it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish.”

⁵¹He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation,⁵²and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad.⁵³So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.

⁵⁴Jesus therefore no longer walked openly among the Jews, but went from there to the region near the wilderness, to a town called Ephraim, and there he stayed with the disciples.

⁵⁵Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and many went up from the country to Jerusalem before the Passover to purify themselves.⁵⁶They were looking for Jesus and saying to one another as they stood in the temple, “What do you think? That he will not come to the feast at all?”⁵⁷Now the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that if anyone knew where he was, he should let them know, so that they might arrest him.

12 Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead.²So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at the table.³Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.⁴But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said,⁵“Why was this ointment not

sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?”⁶ He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it.⁷ Jesus said, “Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial.⁸ The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me.”

When the large crowd of the Jews learned that Jesus was there, they came, not only on account of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead.¹⁰ So the chief priests made plans to put Lazarus to death as well,¹¹ because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem.¹³ So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!”¹⁴ And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,¹⁵ “Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!”¹⁶ His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him.¹⁷ The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness.¹⁸ The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign.¹⁹ So the Pharisees said to one another, “You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him.”

is Jesus Christ the only way to God?

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks.²¹So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.”²²Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.²³And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.²⁴Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.²⁵Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.²⁶If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

²⁷“Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour?’ But for this purpose I have come to this hour.²⁸Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.”²⁹The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.”³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not mine.³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out.³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”³³He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.³⁴So the crowd answered him, “We have heard from the Law that the Christ remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?”³⁵So Jesus said to them, “The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake

3. What is the one condition Jesus gives for finding life? What does He mean by this? (12:25-26)

4. What does Jesus say is true of the person who serves Him? (12:26)

LIFE ISSUES book 3

you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going.³⁶While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.”

When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them.³⁷Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him,³⁸so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: “Lord, who has believed what he heard from us, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”³⁹Therefore they could not believe. For again Isaiah said,⁴⁰“He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, lest they see with their eyes, and understand with their heart, and turn, and I would heal them.”⁴¹Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him.⁴²Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue;⁴³for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

⁴⁴And Jesus cried out and said, “Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me.⁴⁵And whoever sees me sees him who sent me.⁴⁶I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.⁴⁷If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.⁴⁸The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.⁴⁹For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself

given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak.⁵⁰ And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me.”

13 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.² During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, to betray him,³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God,⁴ rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist.

⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, do you wash my feet?”⁷ Jesus answered him, “What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.”⁸ Peter said to him, “You shall never wash my feet.” Jesus answered him, “If I do not wash you, you have no share with me.”⁹ Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!”¹⁰ Jesus said to him, “The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you.”¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

¹² When he had washed their feet and put

LIFE ISSUES book 3

on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, “Do you understand what I have done to you? ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. ¹⁶Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. ¹⁸I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, ‘He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.’ ¹⁹I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he. ²⁰Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me.”

²¹After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, “Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.” ²²The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke. ²³One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table close to Jesus, ²⁴so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. ²⁵So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to him, “Lord, who is it?” ²⁶Jesus answered, “It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it.” So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. ²⁷Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, “What you are going to do, do quickly.” ²⁸Now no one at the table

is Jesus Christ the only way to God?

knew why he said this to him.²⁹ Some thought that, because Judas had the moneybag, Jesus was telling him, “Buy what we need for the feast,” or that he should give something to the poor.³⁰ So, after receiving the morsel of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him.³² If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once.³³ Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, ‘Where I am going you cannot come.’³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

³⁶ Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, where are you going?” Jesus answered him, “Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward.”³⁷ Peter said to him, “Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.”³⁸ Jesus answered, “Will you lay down your life for me? Truly, truly, I say to you, the rooster will not crow till you have denied me three times.

14 “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.² In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.⁴ And you know the way to where I

LIFE ISSUES book 3

5. In Jesus' view, is there any other way than believing and following Him in order for a person to find God? Why? (14:6)

6. How does Jesus describe His relationship with God the Father? (14:9-11)

7. What does Christ promise to those who will ask Him anything that honors Him? (14:13-14)

am going.”⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

“If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.”⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works.¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.¹² Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.¹³ Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.¹⁴ If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

¹⁸“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.¹⁹ Yet a little while and the world will

is Jesus Christ the only way to God?

see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.²⁰In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”²²Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?”²³Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. ²⁴Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father’s who sent me.

²⁵“These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. ²⁸You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I will come to you.’ If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. ²⁹And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe. ³⁰I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me,³¹but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here.

8. What is true of those who truly love Christ? (14:15, 21-24)

9. What does Jesus mean when He says He will leave a helper? (14:16-26)

15 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-dresser. **2** Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. **3** Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. **4** Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. **5** I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. **6** If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. **7** If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. **8** By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. **9** As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. **10** If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. **11** These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

12 “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. **13** Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. **14** You are my friends if you do what I command you. **15** No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. **16** You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit

is Jesus Christ the only way to God?

and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

¹⁸If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. ²⁰Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. ²¹But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. ²²If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³Whoever hates me hates my Father also. ²⁴If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. ²⁵But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: 'They hated me without a cause.'

²⁶But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. ²⁷And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.



lifeonlife
A Ministry of Perimeter Church



Perimeter
CHURCH

9500 Medlock Bridge Road | Johns Creek, GA 30097
678.405.2000 | www.lifeonlife.org

ISBN: 978-0-9776605-3-7

A standard linear barcode representing the ISBN number 978-0-9776605-3-7.

9 780977 660537

5 0 2 4 9